

F-3-130

McSherry-Holter House
Frederick vicinity
Private

Ca. 1901

The McSherry-Holter House is a large, 2-1/2 story frame Queen Anne style house with eight contributing domestic and agricultural outbuildings located on the east slope of Catoctin Mountain with a panoramic view of Frederick and the Monocacy Valley. The house is an excellent representative of the Queen Anne house, with varied surface finishes which include stone, german siding, and wood shingles as well as high corbeled brick chimneys, polygonal bays, a curving balcony off a top story dormer, and an extensive veranda on three sides of the house. The hipped roof has extended eaves and two finials at the peaks. The outbuildings include a garage, a smokehouse, chicken houses, a probable feed shed, a stable and a barn. The house was built about 1901 by J. Roger McSherry, the son of James McSherry, Chief Justice of the Maryland Court of Appeals. The younger McSherry was a prominent lawyer whose estate was sold in a divorce settlement in 1907 to William P. Holter, a wealthy farmer, whose family still owns the property.

F-3-130
McSherry-Holter House
Frederick
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/mansion
Domestic/secondary structure/garage
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic McSherry-Holter House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6936 Holter Vista Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Frederick ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hazel and Frances C. Holter c/o Janet H. Basler

street & number 5207 Holter Road telephone no.:

city, town Jefferson, M state and zip code MD 21755

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 452

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 460

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-130

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 9

The McSherry-Holter House is a 2-1/2 story frame Queen Anne style dwelling with a one-story veranda, projecting bays and a balcony, a varied roofline and textural exterior finishes, and eight contributing domestic and agricultural outbuildings which include a barn, a stable, chicken houses, a smokehouse, and a garage. The house and outbuildings were built about 1901 on the east slope of Catoctin Mountain with a panoramic view toward the east which takes in the city of Frederick and the Monocacy River valley in Frederick County, Maryland. The house is the easternmost building in the group, with the rest of the domestic buildings northwest and west of the house, and the agricultural buildings located further west and separated from the domestic buildings by a wire fence and gate. A winding driveway rises up the hillside from the southeast to encircle the house and give access to the outbuildings. The date of construction was determined by land records and architectural details.

The dwelling has the typical irregularity of the Queen Anne style in its exterior, with the principal massing centered on the hipped roof with two tall central brick chimneys with corbeled tops and two large knob finials. The roof is now covered with composition material, possibly covering the original wood shingles. The eaves of the roof are extended over the exterior walls, which are faced with german siding on the first story and wood shingles on the second story. The house and all the buildings in the group are painted yellow with white trim. All the windows are 1/1 with louvred shutters. Each elevation of the house presents different architectural features, the principal elevation on the east having one stretch of the deep veranda with turned columns and balustrade, a glazed panel door, a dormer in the roof, and a polygonal bay on the first story. The porch has a pedimented roof over the stairs from the east lawn. The south elevation is partially shaded by the one-story veranda extending around the southeast corner of the house. Polygonal bays in different locations are on both the first and second stories, and the south dormer on the top level is fronted by a curved shingled balcony supported on a large bracket. The dormer has a tripartite window, probably a jib window in the center for access to the balcony, and shingled sides. The west elevation has a projecting one-story shed addition above slanting exterior cellar doors and a dormer in the roof. The north elevation has a modern addition on the northwest corner. A two-story projecting section has multiple paned windows on both stories, perhaps enclosing a sleeping porch on the upper level. The north end of the main veranda at the northeast corner appears to have been joined with the projecting by the enclosure of an originally open one story porch section. The first story of the elevation is thus almost entirely enclosed with a continuous band of 6/6 windows extended from the front to the rear of the house. The turned balustrading of the front veranda is continued on the north porch and remains visible in front of the enclosure wall. The interior was inaccessible for this survey.

Garage: The frame garage is located just northwest of the house and has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal and german siding on the walls. The south

8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-130

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1901

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The McSherry-Holter House is an excellent example of the large country estate of the late 19th-early 20th century in Frederick County and of the Queen Anne architectural style. It was built about 1901 by James Roger McSherry, an attorney whose father was Chief Justice James McSherry (1842-1907) of the Maryland Court of Appeals. J. Roger McSherry was prominent and successful in his own right, and the large house with its several outbuildings reflects his social and professional status in Frederick County. Unfortunately, he was compelled to sell the estate in 1907 to as part of a divorce settlement and the property was purchased by William P. Holter, a prominent and wealthy farmer, whose family still retains title to the state. Mr. Holter's five daughters were well-known teachers in Frederick County.

The early 20th century development of the Frederick and Middletown Railway trolley line along the Old National Pike south of the McSherry-Holter House led in turn to the establishment of a village of large, stylish summer homes in Braddock Heights near the amusement park which was also developed by the trolley company. As the area grew in fame as a summer resort, it became a desirable retreat for the wealthy who erected large houses, often in the latest styles and designed by architects, for summer homes. The McSherry-Holter House exemplifies the Queen Anne style of many of these houses, although the Colonial Revival and eclectic combinations of styles were also very popular. The name of an architect connected with the McSherry-Holter House has not been discovered; however, McSherry was of the class which could employ well-known practitioners from Baltimore, Washington, or Philadelphia. Further research may shed more light on this intriguing research question. It is equally possible that a local builder may have supplied the design from the available pattern books which were proliferating around the turn of the century. The Frederick Daily News of the period often ran illustrations of moderately priced architect-designed houses for which plans could be ordered, indicating that professionally designed buildings were becoming available to the general public, as well as to the rich.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-130

Decker, Mr. Harry L., personal interview, Feb. 18, 1993

Land Records of Frederick County

McSherry, Mr. James, telephone interview, Feb. 17, 1993

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Frederick, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 66, Parcel 698

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date February 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCE
100 COMMUNITY PLAC.
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-202
514/7400

7.1 Description (Continued)

elevation has three modern lift type doors. The stone foundation and german siding indicate that the garage was probably built at the same time as the house, about 1901.

Smokehouse: The square plan shed which probably served as a smokehouse or meat house is located northwest of the garage. It has board and batten siding and a vertical board door in the south elevation. The north elevation has two 3/3 windows. The roof is hipped and covered with composition material.

Shed: A second hipped roof square shed is located directly west of the house at the edge of the encircling driveway opposite the gate to the agricultural buildings. This siting suggests that it may have been a garden shed or feed shed for the nearby chicken houses. It has german siding and a tongue-and-groove door in the north elevation. The other three sides each have a 1/1 window with louvred shutters.

Chicken houses: Three deteriorated chicken houses are located just inside the wire fencing separating the agricultural buildings from the domestic buildings. They have german siding, shed corrugated roofs, and multiple pane windows on the south elevations.

Stable: The frame stable is located west of the chicken houses and shares a fenced barnyard with the barn located west of it. The stable is also deteriorated and has vertical siding with tongue-and-groove doors on the south elevation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. An addition with german siding is attached to the northwest corner, suggesting that it was possibly the tack room or a feed room off the main stall area.

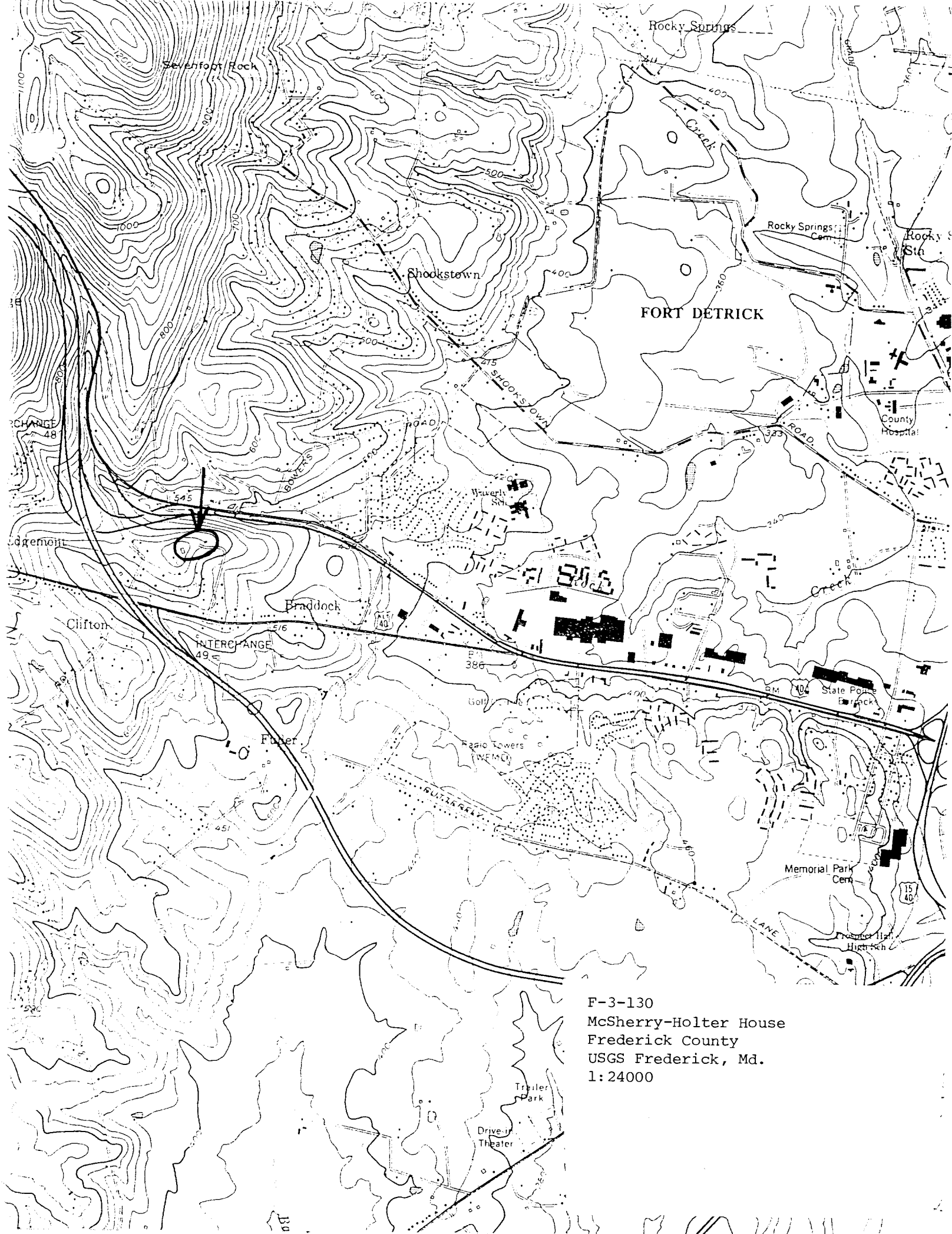
Barn: The English type barn is somewhat larger than the stable and is also in deteriorated condition. The siding is vertical boards and sliding doors are located on the east and west elevations. A projecting section on the northeast corner may have been additional stalls or machine storage space. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

697 Halter Vista Rd.

F-3-130

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Cost	Miscellaneous
452/460 6 Mar 46	Hazel, Ruth X. Mary W. & Frances C. Halter (daughters)	Wm. P. & Sammie L. Halter	"McSherry Property" 1.46 a. 2.25 a. 312/417, 29 Apr 15 2 a. sold to SRC	
281/110 6 May 07	Wm. P. Halter	Emory L. Coblenz trustee of J. Roger McSherry et al, Equity 8106	60 a. ± \$10,500	Deed of Trust 18 Dec 06 276/590
	J. Roger McSherry	Several deeds cited dating 1899-1901		
	1) DHH 11/376 or 367, 30 May 01			
	2) DHH 5/58, 19 Jul 1899			
	3) DHH 5/61, 22 Jun 1899			
	4) DHH 5/60, 22 Jun 1899			
	5) DHH 5/391, 28 Dec 1899			
	6) DHH 11/364, 20 May 01			
	7) DHH 11/83, 26 Mar 01			
	8) JLS 16/423, 31 Aug 1897			
	9) DHH 5/59, 22 Jun 1899			
276/590 18 Dec 06	Emory L. Coblenz	J. Roger McSherry		



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Frederick County
USGS Frederick, Md.
1:24000



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Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

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McSherry-Holter House

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Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation, partial view

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McSherry-Holter House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Garage, southeast corner view

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McSherry-Holter House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Board & batten shed, south elevation

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McSherry-Holter House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

German sided shed, northeast corner view

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McSherry-Holter House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Chicken houses, South elevation

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McSherry-Holter House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Barn and stable, view from southeast

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